

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:  
maintaining a plurality of stored signatures in a data storage device, each signature being associated with one of a plurality of registered documents;  
intercepting packets being transmitted over a network;  
reassembling the packets into an intercepted document;  
calculating a set of signatures associated with the intercepted document; and  
comparing the set of signatures associated with the intercepted document with the plurality of stored signatures to determine if the intercepted document contains content associated with a registered document, wherein each registered document is associated with a user that requested registration of the document, the user being alerted if an attempt to transmit the registered document over a network is made, whereby an alert element is configured during the requested registration of the registered document.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the comparison results in a match of at least one of the signatures in the set of signatures with one or more of the plurality of stored signatures, then detecting registered content from the registered document being contained in the intercepted document.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising halting delivery of the intercepted document.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising prompting the user that requested registration of the registered document for permission to deliver the

intercepted document, receiving permission from the user, and completing delivery of the intercepted document in response to receiving permission.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein calculating the set of signatures of the intercepted document comprises calculating a plurality of hashes over one or more portions of the intercepted document.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
- a network interface module to connect the apparatus to a network;
  - a signature database to store a first set of signatures, the first set of signatures being associated with a registered object, wherein the first set of signatures stored in the signature database is associated with a user who requested registration of the registered object;
  - an object capture module to intercept packets being transmitted over the network;
  - an object assembly module to reassemble the packets into an intercepted object;
- and
- a registration module comprising a registration engine to generate a second set of signatures, the second set of signatures being associated with the intercepted object, and a search engine to compare the second set of signatures with the first set of signatures, the apparatus being configured to alert the user if an attempt to transmit the registered document over a network is made, whereby an alert element is configured during the requested registration of the registered document.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the registration module detects registered content from the registered object being transmitted over the network if the search engine matches one or more signatures in the second set of signatures with one or more signatures in the first set of signatures.
11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the registration module further comprises a notification module to generate an alert for the user who requested registration of the registered object in response to detecting registered content from the registered object being transmitted over the network.
12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising an object store module to store the intercepted object.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the registration module halts delivery of the intercepted object from the object store module to its destination in response to detecting registered content from the registered object being transmitted over the network.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the registration module allows completion of the delivery of the intercepted object from the object store module to its destination in response to receiving permission from the user who requested registration of the registered object.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the registration engine generates the second set of signatures by calculating a plurality of hashes various portions of the intercepted object.

16. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium storing a sequence of instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

maintaining a plurality of stored signatures in a data storage device, each signature being associated with one of a plurality of registered objects, wherein each registered object is associated with a user that requested registration of the object;

intercepting packets being transmitted over a network;

reassembling the packets into an intercepted object;

calculating a set of signatures associated with the intercepted object; ~~and~~

comparing the set of signatures associated with the intercepted object with the plurality of stored signatures to determine if the intercepted document contains content associated with a registered document; and

alerting the user if an attempt to transmit the registered document over a network is made, whereby an alert element is configured during the requested registration of the registered document.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the instruction further cause the processor to detect registered content from the registered object being contained in the intercepted object, if the comparison results in a match of at least one of the signatures in the set of signatures with one or more of the plurality of stored signatures.

19. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to halt delivery of the intercepted object.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to prompt the user that requested registration of the registered object for permission to deliver the intercepted object, and to deliver the intercepted object if permission is given.

22. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium storing a sequence of instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving a document to be registered;

calculating a set of one or more signatures for the document; and

storing the set of signatures in a database for comparison against signatures of captured documents, wherein the set of signatures is associated with a user that requested registration of the document; and

alerting the user if an attempt to transmit the registered document over a network is made, whereby an alert mechanism is configured by the user during the requested registration of the registered document.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
- an object capture module to receive packets for an object to be registered;
  - an object assembly module to reassemble the packets into the object;
  - a registration module to calculate a set of one or more signatures for the object; and
  - a signature database to store the set of signatures, wherein the set of signatures is associated with a user that requested registration of the document.